

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1157

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dale Keasling upon his induction into the Junior Achievement of East Tennessee Business Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dale Keasling of Greene County who was recently inducted into the Junior Achievement of East Tennessee Business Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, Mr. Keasling has been president and chief executive officer of Home Federal Bank, the largest locally owned bank in East Tennessee with 500 employees and twenty-three locations in Knox, Sevier, Blount, and Anderson Counties; and

WHEREAS, with four decades of experience in the banking industry, Dale Keasling started his career as an auditor at Arthur Andersen & Company in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, during that time, he served the accounting needs of Valley Fidelity Bank & Trust Company in Knoxville, who would invite him to join the staff as chief financial officer in 1973; and

WHEREAS, just a few years later, Mr. Keasling was appointed president of Valley Fidelity, making him the youngest bank president in Knoxville at the age of thirty-six; and

WHEREAS, by 1988, he became Valley Fidelity chairman and was one of three men nominated for appointment to the Knoxville Utilities Board; and

WHEREAS, First Tennessee bought the bank in 1992, at which time, Dale Keasling served as regional president and worked to facilitate a smooth merger of the two companies' operations; and

WHEREAS, after successfully completing the merger, Mr. Keasling moved on to become head of Home Federal Bank, where he has faithfully served customers for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing sound and secure banking options, Home Federal Bank also promotes the community through its Hometown Heroes program that honors eight volunteers and makes a \$2,500 donation to each volunteer's favorite charity with a grand prize of \$5,000 to the overall winner's favorite charity; and

WHEREAS, a highly active member of his community, Mr. Keasling devotes his time and energy to numerous organizations, including the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, Knox Area Rescue Ministries, United Way of Greater Knoxville, Leadership Knoxville, Dogwood Arts Festival, and East Tennessee State University Foundation; and

WHEREAS, born on the family farm on October 23, 1943, Dale Keasling is the youngest of Drew and Lucille Keasling's five children; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Greeneville High School, where he played football, Mr. Keasling earned his bachelor's degree in accounting at East Tennessee State University, graduating *summa cum laude*; and

WHEREAS, a loyal veteran of the United States Air Force, he served in a cryptographic unit during the turbulent Cuban Missile Crisis; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties as president and chief executive officer of Home Federal Bank, Mr. Keasling manages a 150-acre farm with his wife, Barbara, and enjoys spending time with his children, Julie and Andrew, and his five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dale Keasling epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dale Keasling for his dedication to public service and to his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dale Keasling for his meritorious service

to the state of Tennessee, congratulate him upon being inducted into the Junior Achievement of East Tennessee Business Hall of Fame, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.